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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 14 December 1998 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Enclosed please find the text of a note verbale dated 14 December 1998 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations, responding to the latter's note verbale dated 19 November 1998 in relation to visas for two deputies of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Robert C. **Moller**
Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

98-39849 (E) 181298

Annex

Note verbale dated 14 December 1998 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations and acknowledges receipt of the latter's note verbale dated 19 November 1998 in relation to visas for two deputies of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (A/AC.154/323).

The two deputies of the National Assembly, Mr. Nikolai Cherginets and Mr. Aleksandr Kozyr, applied for visas to participate in an Interparliamentary Union event at the United Nations General Assembly. They were invited by the Secretary-General of the Interparliamentary Union, Mr. Anders Johnson, rather than by the United Nations. The United States does not have obligations under its Headquarters Agreement with the United Nations regarding events convened by the Interparliamentary Union.

If the aim of the Government of Belarus was to include the two deputies on its official delegation to the fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, that intention was not made clear at the time of visa application in Minsk. Paragraph 4 of the note verbale also makes a distinction between the official delegation of Belarus and the members of the Belarusian parliamentary delegation.

The United States takes its responsibility as host country to the United Nations seriously, and is mindful of the provisions of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement. The Permanent Mission's note acknowledges that throughout its 50-plus years of membership in the United Nations, no member of the delegation of the Government of Belarus to the United Nations has been denied a visa by the host country. The United States believes this record remains intact.